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THE GREAT FOREST...

SEEMS LIKE I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK THESE PAST FEW DAYS.

FIRST KING MAX GETS COLD-COCKED UP-SIDE HIS HEAD BECAUSE I WAS BUSY RESCUING THE PRINCE...

...AND NOW I'VE LOST THE ROYAL SWORD OF ACORNS TO ROBOTNIK.

IT WAS THE ONLY HOPE I HAD OF FREEING UNCLE CHUCK AND THE REST O' THE ROBIANS FROM HIS CONTROL, TOO

I REALLY BLEW IT.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN 1070-5090), No. 93, Apr., 2001. Published every 4 weeks, twice in April by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher; Michael I. Silberfeld, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies $1.99 in the U.S., $2.39 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. $25.87 for 13 issues; $31.07 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. © SEGA CORPORATION 2001. All Rights Reserved. SEGA, DREAMCAST™, the Dreamcast logo, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters are trademarks or registered trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc., P.O. Box 7639, San Francisco, CA 94120-7639. www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

CRIME 'N PUNISHMENT
?!
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FRANK GAGLIARDO - COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE - EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK - MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

HAVEN'T WE BEEN THROUGH THIS ALREADY, ST. JOHN?
SIR SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, I HEREBY PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST FOR THE THEFT OF A ROYAL ARTIFACT--
ARREST?!
LIKE WHEN ROBOTNIK HAD YOU CONVINCED I'D WHACKED PRINCESS SALLY!
I WAS WRONG THEN. NOW, I'M CORRECTING MY MISTAKE.
I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU!
BUT YOU HAVE TO ANSWER TO SOMEONE, RIGHT?

ROBOTROPOLIS...
KEEP MOVING IN AN ORDERLY FASHION.
GRANDMA, I'M NOT SURE I FEEL SAFE HERE.
NOR I, HOPE, NOR I.
WELL, IT'S A STEP UP FROM BEING SET UPON BY MONKEYS AND HEDGEHOGS, ISN'T IT?
AHHH, MY "PEEPS"--WELCOME TO THE CITY OF THE FUTURE. DON'T MIND THE APPEARANCE.
IT'S EQUIPPED WITH ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EVERYONE. HERE YOU'LL BE SAFE FROM DANGER!
HOORAY!
AS FOR YOU, COLIN, ANY BROTHER OF MINE DESERVES NO LESS THAN A LUXURY SUITE AT MY PALACE!

AND BENEATH THE CITY STREETS...
HA! THE SWORD OF ACORNS BELONGS TO KODOS!
NOW I HOLD ALL THE CARDS! SOON I'LL HAVE SONIC AND ROBOTNIK JUMPING THROUGH HOOPS FOR ME!
I WON'T NEED ANY-THING...
...OR ANYONE!

PRINCE ELIAS, WHERE'S SALLY? I NEED TO TALK TO HER LIKE YESTERDAY!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE, SONIC. ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY TO HER CAN BE SAID TO ME.
I'M WAY SORRY I BOTCHED EVERYTHING, SAL. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
OH SONIC...
SORRY, ELIAS...NO CAN DO!
COME BACK HERE AND SHOW SOME RESPECT YOU BRAZEN THUG!
LET HIM GO.

THINGS HAVE GONE FROM BAD, TO WORSE TOTALLY IN THE TOILET! I ONLY WANTED TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT...
...INSTEAD I WIND UP CUT OFF FROM--
SONIC-- YOU'RE NOT IN JAIL!
YAAAAY!
MINA?
I KNEW YOU'D SHOW--
WHOAAAA!!
SPL-DOW

Hee! Hee! Hee! Hee!
SONIC!

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YES SON-EEK WE VE JUST ARR VED FROM ZEE KINGDOM OF MERCIA.
ANTOINE? BUNNIE? AND GENERAL D'COOLETTE?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE GONE
UHH YEAH
MY FATHER HAS BEEN REMANDED TO MY CUSTODY--I MUST SEE GEOFFREY ST JOHN AND KING MAX AT ONCE
NOT GOING TO HAPPEN SON

YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE HIM OVER TO GEOFFREY AND ELIAS. MAX TURNED HIS AUTHORITY OVER TO THE PRINCE..

...IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE LEARNED THAT HIS INJURIES LEFT HIM PARALYZED.

ALL MY FAULT

NONSENSE

WHAT CHU TALKIN' BOUT SUGAH-HOG?

KING MAX GOT HURT BECAUSE I DIDN'T PROTECT HIM WHEN WE BUSTED INTO ROBOTNIK'S BASE...

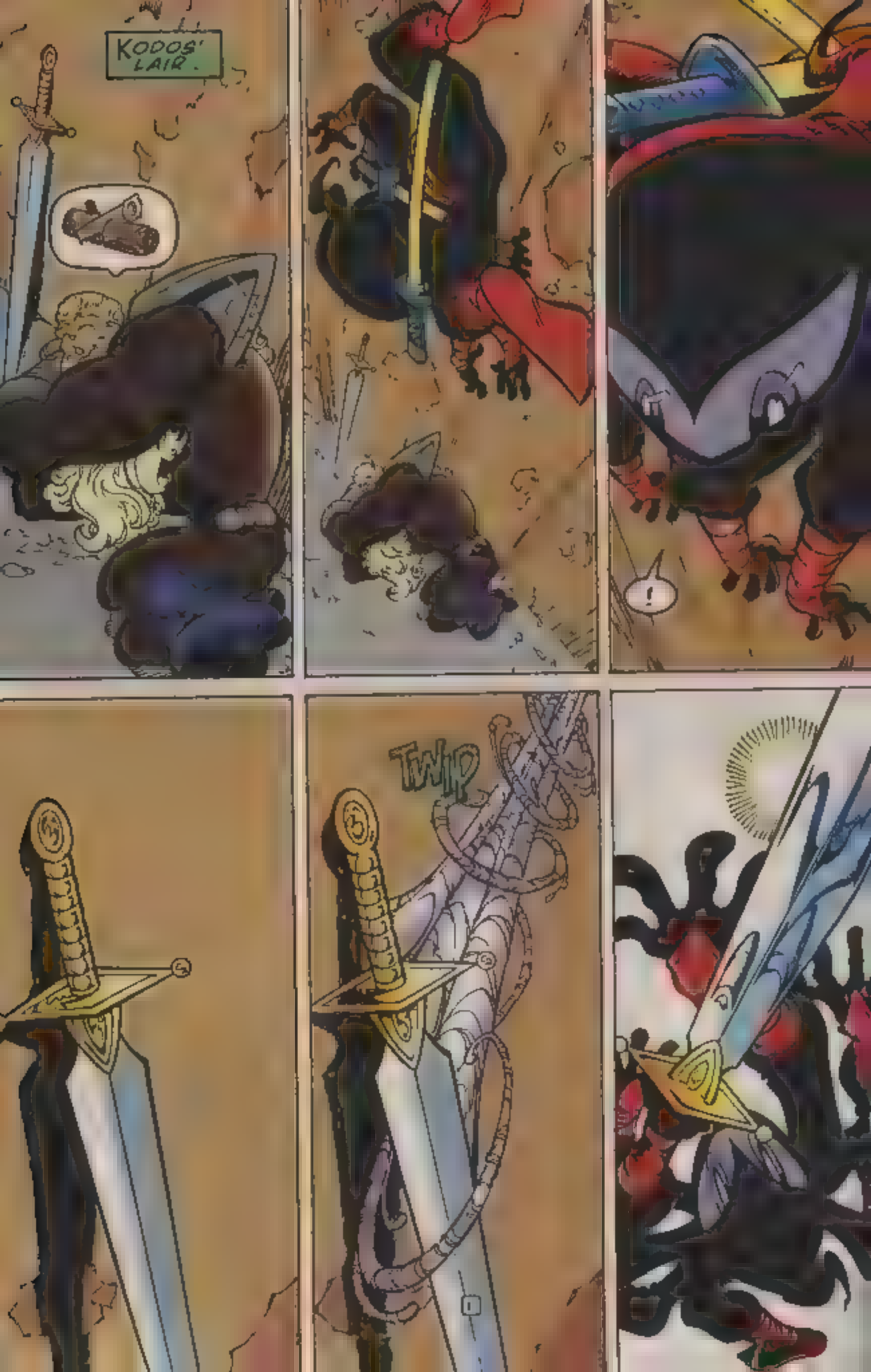
THEN I TOOK HIS SWORD. I FIGURED SALLY AND ELIAS WERE BUSY AND I JUST COULDN'T WAIT

NOW, ROBOTNIK'S GOT IT. WHEN ELIAS TRIED TO FIND OUT ABOUT IT, I BLEW HIM OFF.

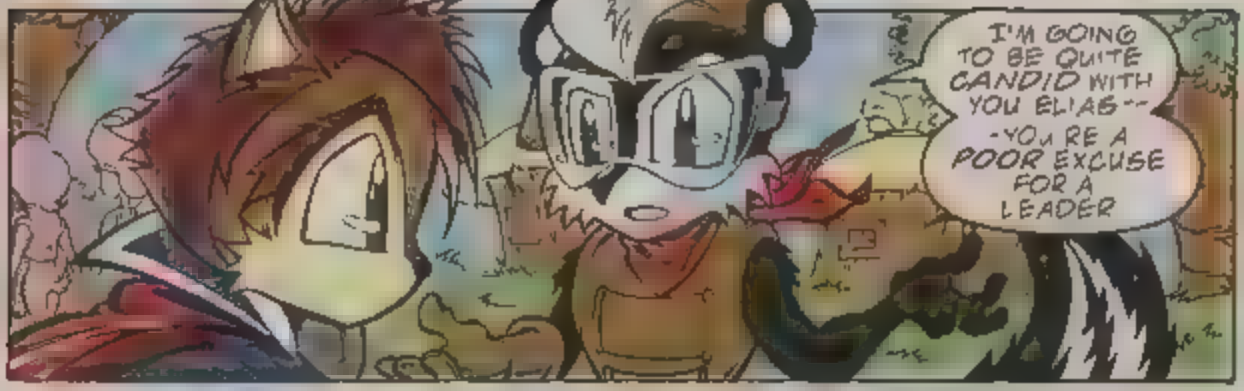
IN ALL HONESTY, SONIC HIS HIGHNESS SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN LEADING SUCH A DANGEROUS MISSION AND--

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHERE I NEED TO GO NATE.


KODOS' LAIR.
!
TWIP

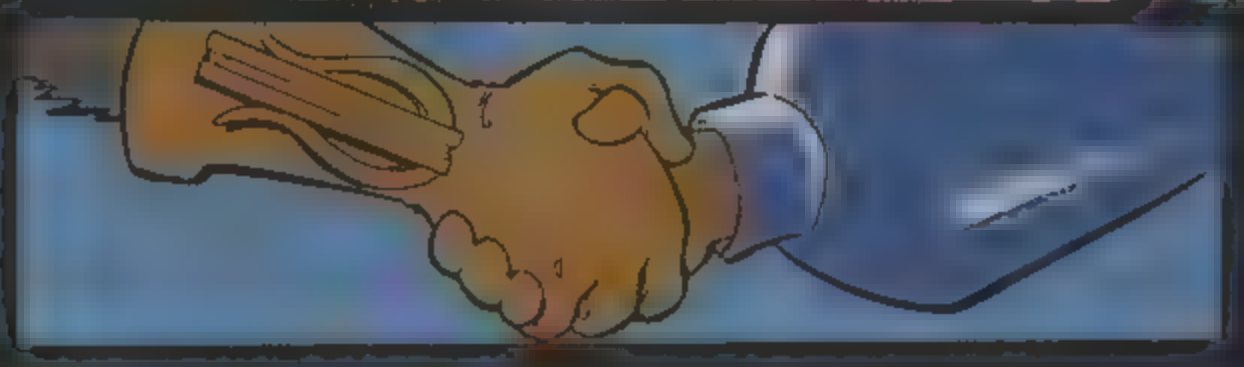
HE DO WHAT?!
STOLE THE SWORD AND NO ONE KNOWS WHY HE REFUSES TO EXPLAIN HIS ACTIONS
WHAT SHOULD I--I MEAN WHAT WILL YOU DO ELIAS?
DON'T PRESSURE YOUR BROTHER DEAR HE'LL FIGURE IT OUT THAT'S WHY HE HAS LOYAL ST JOHN
WHY DON'T WE GO ABOUT GETTING ME SOMETHING DECENT TO WEAR?
SOUNDS LIKE A CAPITAL IDEA YOUR MAJESTY I'LL GIVE ME LEAVE TO ADEQUATELY COUNCIL THE PRINCE


I'M GOING TO BE QUITE CANDID WITH YOU ELIAS--
--YOU'RE A POOR EXCUSE FOR A LEADER

CAN'T BLAME YOU ACTUALLY. YOU WERE NEVER CUT OUT FOR THIS LINE OF WORK YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR LIFE ON AN ISLAND
NEVER DREAMING YOU'D SOMEDAY BE A PRINCE YOUR FATHER SHOULD'VE APPOINTED THE PRINCESS HIS SUCCESSOR, BUT HE'S STUCK IN THE OLD WAYS

SO WHAT WILL YOU DO? IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL LET ME HELP. I CAN GUIDE EVERY DECISION YOU MAKE FROM BEHIND THE SCENES, SO MAX WON'T BE DIS-APPOINTED.

AGREED?



ROBOTNIK'S BASE

ENTER

THIS PLACE S LIKE BIGGER THAN B G!

AH, COLIN! WELCOME--SPLENDID TO SEE YOU AFTER "A DECADE OR SO"

T S GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO, JULIAN

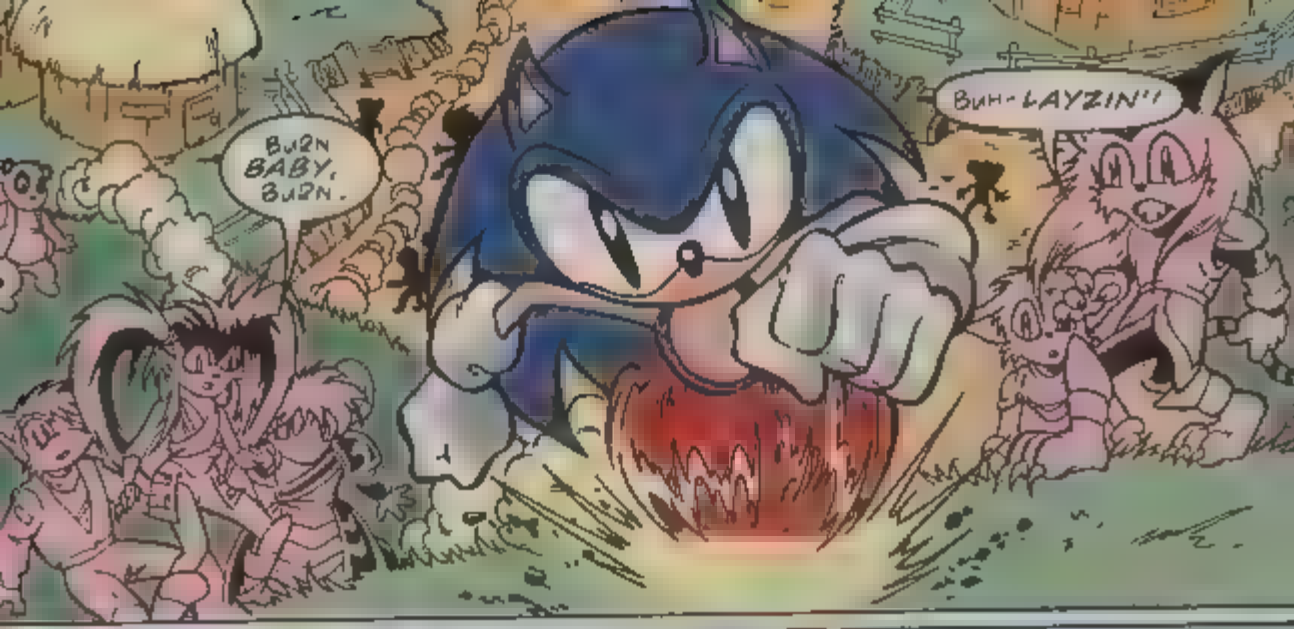
PLEASE NO TOUCH NG GERMS, YOU KNOW

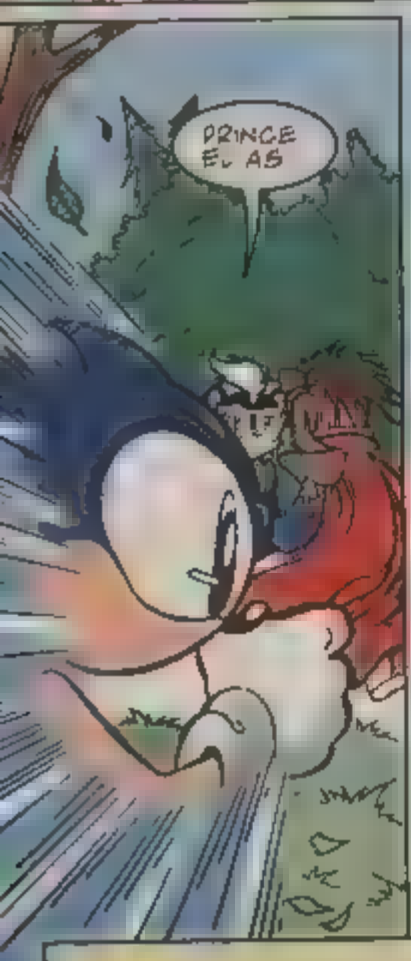
GERMS?! S NCE WHEN ARE YOU BOTHERED BY GERMS?

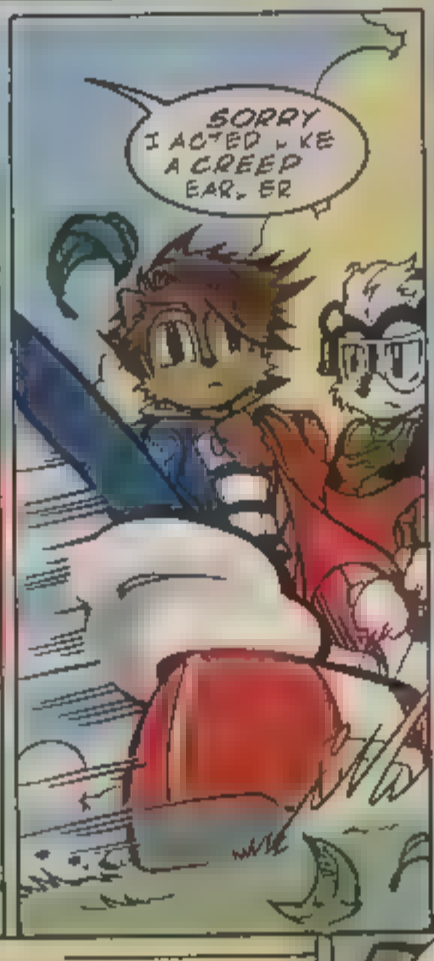
THINGS CHANGE AND WHO ARE THESE EXQUIS TE CREATURES SEE-KAY?

I REMARRIED AFTER SN VELY S MOTHER PASSED AWAY BUT MY SECOND W FE D DN'T SURV VE OUR STAR TREK.

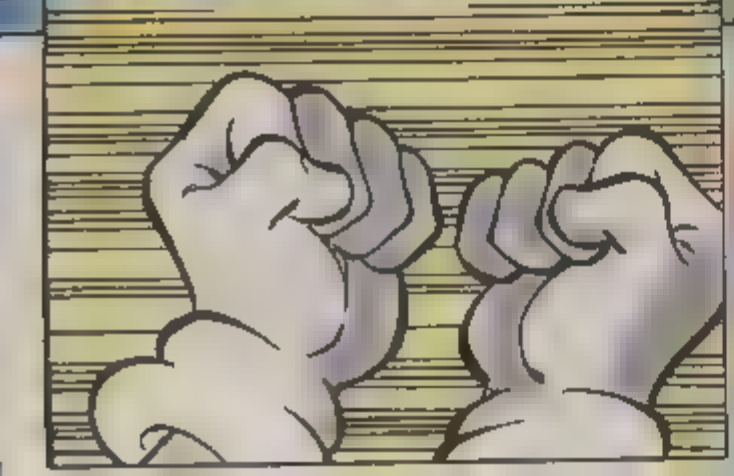
LADY AGNES IS MY MOTHER- N-LAW AND HOPE IS MY STEPDAUGHTER


BURN BABY, BURN.
BUH-LAYZIN''


PRINCE ELIAS


SORRY I ACTED LIKE A CREEP EARLIER

I TOOK THE SWORD. I LOST IT TO ROBOTNIK
I'M READY TO FACE THE MUSIC



I'M NOT GOING TO IMPRISON YOU, SONIC-- YOU'RE A HERO BUT YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR CRIME

SO I M DIVESTING YOU OF YOUR KNIGHTHOOD AND AS A MINOR.
YOU ARE HEREBY CONFINED TO THE REALM OF KNOTHOLE!
NEXT MONTH NEW ORDER!

WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH KNUCKLES? PATIENCE, DEAR READER, AND KEN PENDERS (WRITER, ARTIST, LETTERER, COLORIST, CHIEF COOK AND BOTTLE WASHER) ALONG WITH EDITOR JUSTIN GABRIE WILL SOON MAKE ALL CLEAR. JUST KEEP GOING...

IT'S LIKE NOTHING I EVER SAW BEFORE!
WHOA! THE SHAPE IS FAMILIAR -- BUT THE COLOR --
KNUCKLES?
IS THAT YOU?
YOU SHOULD TALK!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU WEREN'T AROUND WHEN EVERYONE DISCOVERED MY SECRET!
LOOKS LIKE YOU SHOT UP A BIT SINCE I LAST LAID EYES ON YOU!
SECRET?
-- MY FIANCEE!
BEFORE I GO ON, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE SAFRON --
YOUR -- ?
YOU WERE ON THE MONEY RACK

-- FIGURING KNUCKLES WOULD SEEK OUT HIS FRIENDS!
IT'S WHAT ANYONE WOULD USUALLY DO IF THEY WERE IN A PICKLE, NIC!
ACCORDING TO THE ECHIDNAS, OUR BOY LOST HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS DURING AN ATTACK FROM AN OLD ENEMY, WITH ONE EXCEPTION --
THE BEE COLONY IS LOCATED IN ONE CENTRAL LOCATION --
-- UNLIKE HEDGEHOGS, ECHIDNAS AND SQUIRRELS I KNOW!
PRINCE CHARMING OVER THERE!
IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF WAITING FOR OUR BOY TO ARRIVE!
FORTUNATELY FOR US --
NOW THAT HE'S HERE, WE CAN BAG IM!
HEYY!!!!
WHEN DID YOU SUFFER A BRAIN-DRAIN, SIS?
YOUR WEAPON STANDS ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE AGAINST THE ECHIDNA AS I HAVE OF MAKING AN HONEST LIVING!
WHY DO IT THE HARD WAY --
WHEN PLAYING DIRTY IS MUCH EASIER!

SO WHAT GIVES W TH YOUR NEW LOOK?
AND WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE CHAOTIX?
I'LL BET VECTOR S STILL RAGGING ON JULIE-SU!
I W SH HAD A CLUE!
ONE M NUTE THE GUYS AND I ARE BUSTING HEADS WITH THE DARK LEGION, AND THE NEXT --
I'M FLOATING ON THE WATER AND NO SIGN OF ANYONE!
AS FOR THE GREEN GLOW --
-- I'M BETTING MY DAD HAS THE ANSWERS, BUT HE'S --
WHAT'S THAT?
I HEARD IT, TOO!
G'DAY, MATES!
YOU WOULDN'T BE OBJECTIN' TO HELPIN' A STRANGER OUT, NOW WOULD YA?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO *DOWNUNDA*, AND MY *SKYMASTER* DEVELOPED A HICCUP!

THE POOR THING.

HE'S PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT SOME *TRANSPORT* CRAFT, SAF!

IT'S *NOT* ALIVE!

QUITE A BIT OFF THE BEATEN PATH, AINCHA, PAL?

HAVE A *POOR* SENSE OF *DIRECTION*, MATE!

NOT TO MENTION *BAD LUCK* -- WE'RE NOT *MECHANICS!*

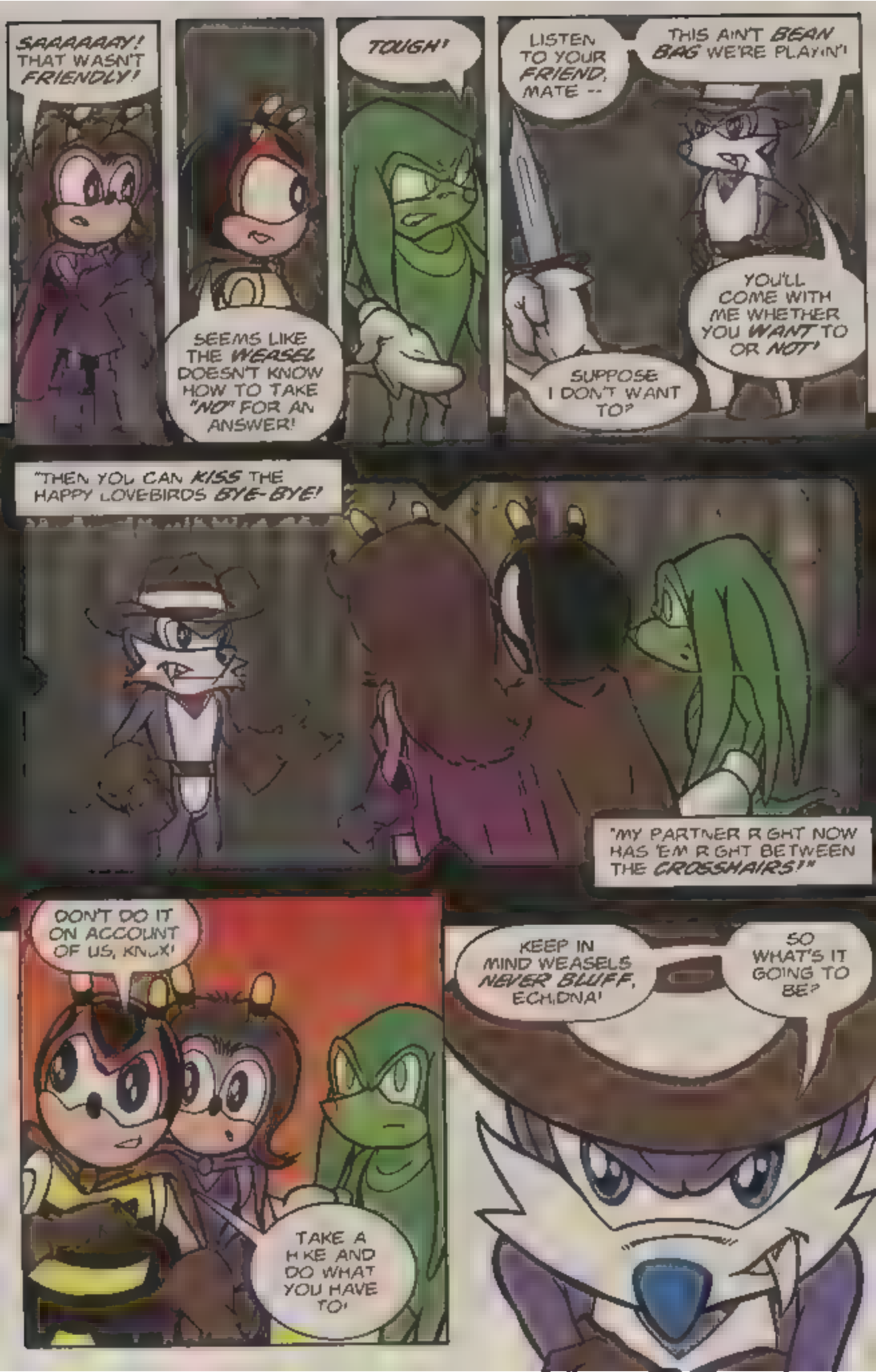
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE I KNOW WHAT TO *DO* --

-- I JUST NEED *HELP* DOING IT!

A LITTLE BIT OF YOUR *TIME* AND *MUSCLE* ARE ALL I NEED, ECHIDNA!

WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE A NUMBER AND *WAIT* IN LINE.

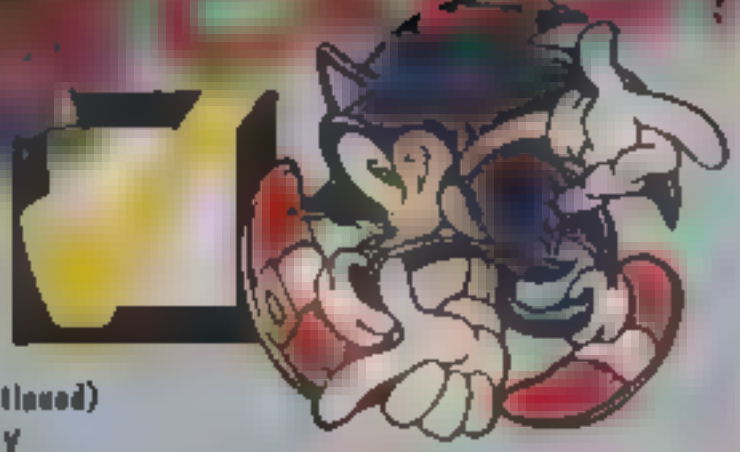
WHO *SAID* YOU HAD A *CHOICE?*


SAAAAAAY! THAT WASN'T FRIENDLY!
SEEMS LIKE THE WEASEL DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER!
TOUGH!
LISTEN TO YOUR FRIEND, MATE --
THIS AIN'T BEAN BAG WE'RE PLAYIN'!
YOU'LL COME WITH ME WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT!
SUPPOSE I DON'T WANT TO?
"THEN YOU CAN KISS THE HAPPY LOVEBIRDS BYE-BYE!
"MY PARTNER RIGHT NOW HAS 'EM RIGHT BETWEEN THE CROSSHAIRS!"
DON'T DO IT ON ACCOUNT OF US, KNUX!
TAKE A HIKE AND DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO!
KEEP IN MIND WEASELS NEVER BLUFF, ECHIDNA!
SO WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?

NACK DID T
WHO'D HAVE GUESSED IT'D BE THIS EASY?
NOT QUITE! THE HARD PART IS YET TO COME
WHA -- ?!!
"DON'T BE SO SURPRISED! YOU'LL LEARN THE TRUTH SOON ENOUGH!"
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T CUT AND RUN?
ONE -- YOU GAVE ME YOUR WORD, AND EVERY ONE KNOWS A GUARDIAN'S WORD IS HIS BOND!
AND TWO -- I GOT TWO INNOCENTS WHO SAY YOU WON'T IN CASE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT "IS" IS!
"GUARDIAN?"
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE WE TOLD HIM!
YOU?
HEY! HANDS OFF THE MERCHANDISE UNTIL YOU FORK OVER THE DOUGH-RE-MI!

-- YANAR?
AND GALA-NA?!!
DON'T MAKE THIS ANY MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT ALREADY IS, KNUCKLES!
YOU WIELD POWER FAR BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION, MAKING YOU A DANGER TO EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING!
SINCE YOU ARE ONE OF US, IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT DOESN'T COME TO PASS, THEREFORE --
-- YOU WILL BE SUBJECTED TO THE CHAOS SYPHON, AND MAY AURORA HERSELF HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL!
TAKE YOUR PAYMENT, WEASEL!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR SISTER FORGET THIS MATTER EVER OCCURRED!

SONIC



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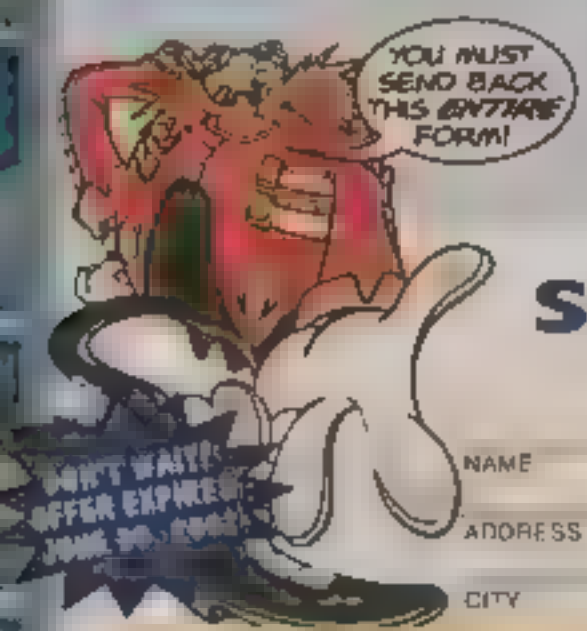

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SONIC-GRAMS

OFF PANEL by Gallagher, Manak & Amash

THIS JUST IN!

J.F. GABRIE
Editor

Well it's that time again for the usual legal jargon. So since I have no space to speak this month (as if anyone wanted to hear what I have to say), I'll simply let the Coming Attractions take over...

Catch you on the flip side!

Next Issue:

What's that? You say you spent your entire childhood as a freedom fighter? And now, you're a teenager and the war's over, dude? What's a growing hedgehog to do? What's expected of every Mobian under age eighteen—get an education! Check out "New Order," written by Karl Bollers, pencilled by FRY, and inked by Pam Eklund! And while you're at it, be sure to buy our KNUCKLES back-up, written and inked by Ken Penders, with pencils by Ron Lim. You won't want to miss SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #94, on sale in frosty February of 2001!

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Thanks for understanding!

Here's what readers had to say about SONIC #85 and 86:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I'm a long-time Sonic fan and had been collecting your comic, but I stopped for three years. Then I saw that Sonic-shaped pasta offer for a free comic and sent away for it. I got SONIC #83 in the mail, and now I'm back (drawn like a hedgehog to chili dogs). Issue #85's "The Big Payback" was excellent! I had heard that issues #86-87 were going to feature the return of Mecha-Sonic, and I couldn't wait, but now I'm pretty content just to reread #85 until they get here. The ending was hilarious and the cover is like a video game fight. I thought it was funny when Tails got clocked by Silver Sonic II's foot (even though it knocked him out for a while). Ron Lim's art has gotten better since the SONIC ADVENTURE adaptation. Keep up the good work!

Andrew Davis (age 13), Mechanicsburg, PA

Face it, Andrew— you're hooked on that hedgehog-goodness! And who can blame you! Welcome back!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I've always wondered why Tails has not just one but two tails. Is he some kind of mutated fox? Why isn't Rotor a freedom fighter anymore? What does Nate Morgan do exactly? That's it for now.

Scott Mrozek, Joliet, IL

Tails was born with two tails, Scott. No one knows why, and no one has ever asked— they've just accepted him for who he is. Who says Rotor isn't a freedom fighter? Did you miss issue #91? What does Nate do, you ask? He was King Max's royal advisor, but as of next issue, he'll be taking on a new role...

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I like your comics a lot, and I hope they continue for years to come. I also have a few questions. 1) What happened to Kodos, Arachnus, Snively, and Predator Hawk? 2) What happened to those two vessels emerging from hyperspace back in issues #77 and #78? By the way, I loved the SONIC ADVENTURE tie-in.

Joel Johnson, Maine, NY

1) Arachnis and Kodos appeared in this issue, Joel! Expect Snively in the next one! 2) If you read issues #91-92, you know exactly what happened to those spaceships that were headed for Mobius!

Dear Sonic-Grams

You're awesome! You make the coolest SONIC comics ever! I am a fan and read them every chance I get. I just can't get enough of that crazy, evil-fighting hedgehog. But you also can't forget about his trustworthy sidekick Tails. I think Amy should get a shot at the spotlight too, but Tails has more experience at fighting. I just have one question: Whatever happened to Scratch and Grounder? Did they get fired by Robotnik?

Nicole Schumacher (age 10), House Springs, MO

Thanks for writing, Nicole! If you were lucky enough to pick up SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #15 (the action-packed finale to that series), you might have seen Scratch and Grounder lurking about in "Sonic Spin City," a tale written and penciled by Off Panel's own Mike Gallagher!

Greetings Archie Comics,

My name is Justin P. Reese, also known as "The Sonic god" on the internet, because of my extensive knowledge of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG games, as well as the comic book series. I recently read issue #86. I'll sum it up in one word: AWESOME. Never have I seen such talented artists. Truly magnificent. You deserve a lot of credit, more than I can give. The return of Metal Sonic will prove a difficult challenge for Sonic, especially with the unknown gem-like power source coming from its chest. I must read the next issue to learn the answer. Ah, the "Off Panel" strips. These are really funny and remind me of the old days of the SONIC comic when the stories were more comical. Please keep these mini-strips in the issue if it's not too much trouble. Reading last month's Sonic-Grams, I see yet another person who wants Tails and Fiona to "hook up." Would that make Bunny Koala jealous? Hmmm, if you ask me, Sonic and Tails should stay bachelors for a while. Marriage, or "hook ups," would destroy the storyline— but I do think there should be some relationship issues. One final word: the catch phrase "Keep On Juicin" seems to be more interesting to me than "Is that your final answer?" Some catch phrases stick, while others get fairly annoying. Funny, such a long letter with no questions. It's probably because I have all the answers.

Justin P. Reese, Anoka, MN

Thanks, Justin!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

Let me start off by saying I love the SONIC THE HEDGEHOG comics!!! Issue #85 was cool! Silver Sonic II was awesome, but Sonic was just the guy to handle him! Now I have some questions: 1) What issues make up the SONIC ADVENTURE adaptation? 2) Will Turbo Tails make another appearance? 3) Is Zonic Sonic's brother? I was shocked to find out that KNUCKLES had been canceled.

See you later!

Gabriel Laughlin, Mt. Hope, KS

1) SONIC ADVENTURE spanned issues #79-85 of SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, and SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #13, Gabriel! 2) For the answer to that question, you might want to check out issues #96-97! Who says this isn't the year of hedgehog happenings! 3) No, Zonic is an alternate zone-reality version of Sonic himself (you follow?)

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I like the comics, but the new Robotnik really stinks. He looks like he's listening to music through headphones. I think the cover to issue #85 was more appealing than the actual story. I absolutely need to know what happened to Robotnik's Swat-Bots!

William Brown, Oceanside, NY

Robotnik's Swat-Bots were junked and replaced by RoboRobotnik's Shadow-Bots, William...

Whoops! Looks like we've run out of space to print your letters, dudes and dudettes! 'Till next time...

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

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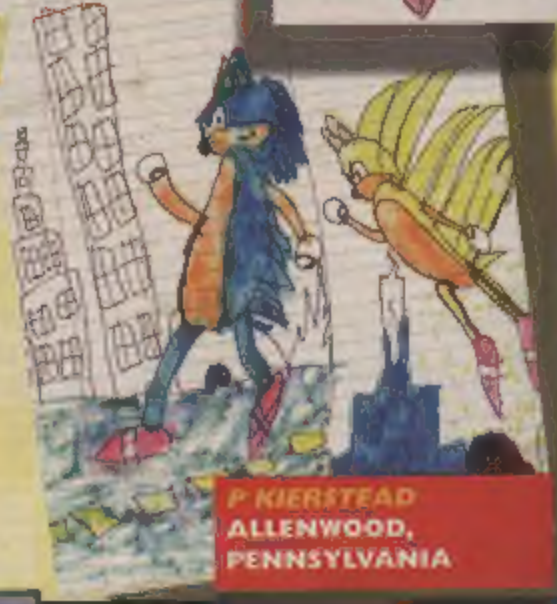

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